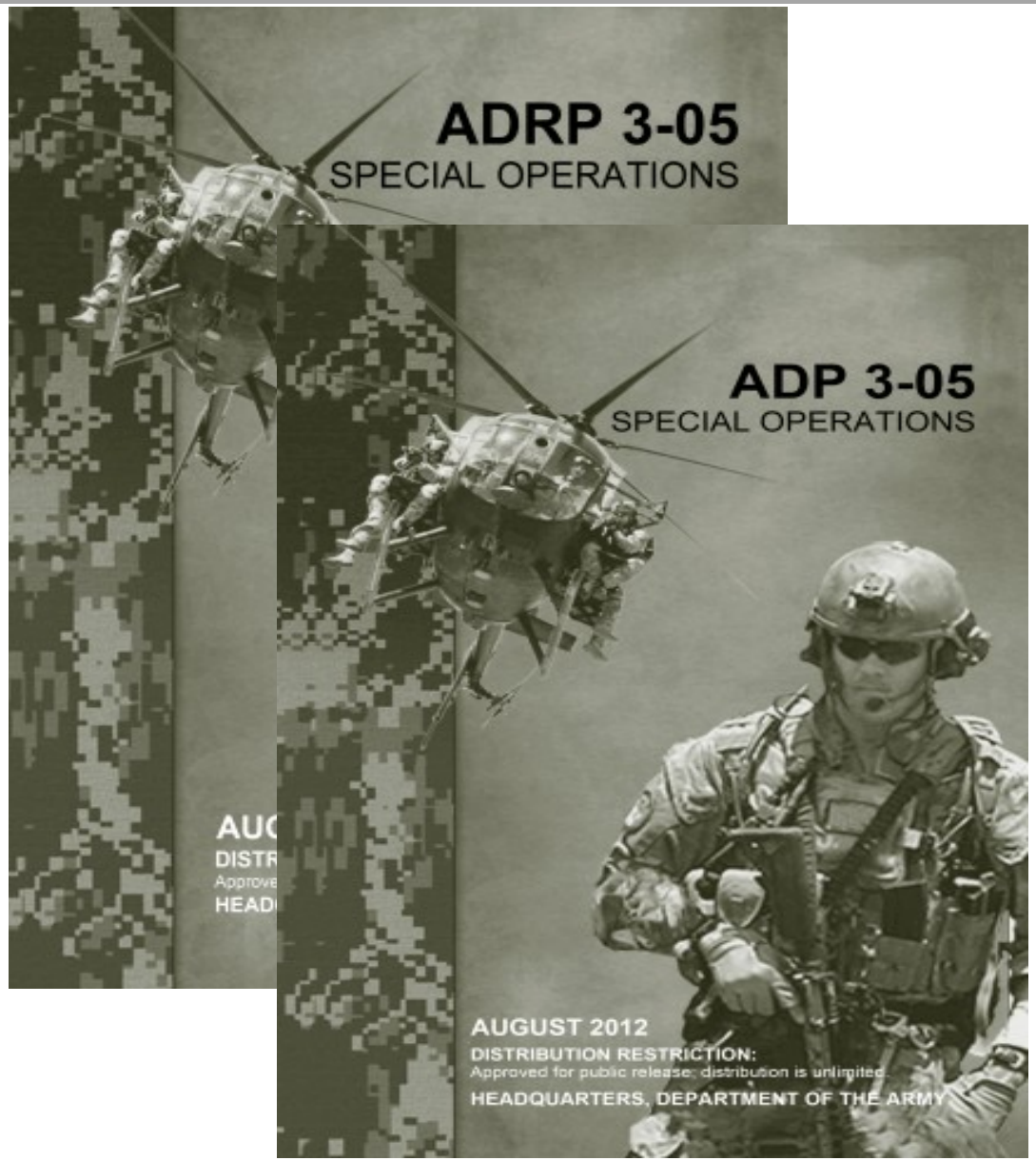
Special Operations Center of Excellenc



Purpose: To provide an overview of the main ideas in Army Doctrine Publication (ADP) 3-05 *Special Operations* and Army Doctrine Reference Publication (ADRP) 3-05 *Special Operations*.

Special Operations Center of Excellenc

In the nation's most recent conflicts, success has increasingly depended on Special Operations Forces and Conventional Forces interdependence.

ADP/ADRP 3-05, Special Operations, describes the role of United States Army Special Operations Forces in the U.S. Army's doctrinal concept to **Shape** operational environments, **Prevent** conflict, and when necessary help **Win** our nation's wars.

Army Special Operations

Unified Action and Unified Land Operations

Operational Environment:

- Complex, ambiguous, noncontiguous environment
- Rapidly evolving situations
- Geopolitical sensitivities
- Whole-of-government approach
- Constrained resources
- Cyber and social media erode geographical boundaries
- Coalition warfare
- Irregular threat

Strategic Challenges:

- Transnational violent extremist organization networks
- Disregard for international norms
- State instability
- Weapons of mass destruction proliferation
- Proliferation of advanced technologies

to cope with these...

we provide...

Army Special Operations

Army special operations provide strategic options for geographic combatant commanders, joint task force commanders, and ambassadors in the form of a surgical strike capability and a special warfare capability. Army special operations assess, shape, and influence foreign political and military environments, working with and through indigenous populations while maintaining a unilateral ability to influence threats and adversaries favorable to U.S. interests.

Executed through…

Critical Capabilities
Special Warfare Surgical Strike

By means of…

Special Operations Core Principles
Discreet, Precise, and Scalable Operations

Guided by…

Special Operations Regional Mechanisms
Assessment Shaping Active Deterrence Influence Disruption

to do this...

we must...

Develop special operations exemplified by the Army Tenets: flexibility, integration lethality, adaptability, depth, and synchronization

Cognitively link tactical actions to strategic objectives

Organize effort within a commonly understood construct

Operations Structure

Provide a broad process for conducting operations

Provide basic options for visualizing and describing operations

Provide intellectual organization for common critical tasks

Characteristics

Mission Criteria

Imperatives

Operational Art

The pursuit of strategic objectives, in whole or in part, through the arrangement of tactical actions in time, space, and purpose

Operations Process

Plan
Prepare
Execute
Assess

Find, Fix, Finish, Exploit, and Analyze

Operational Framework

Decisive-Shaping-Sustaining
Deep-Close-Security
Main and Supporting Efforts

Right Partner, Right Location, Right Capability

Warfighting Functions

Mission Command
Movement and Maneuver
Intelligence
Fires
Sustainment
Protection

Special Operations

Strategic Context for Special Operation

Army Special Operations

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Executed through…

Critical Capabilities

Special Warfare Surgical Strike

By means of…

Special Operations Core Principles

Discreet, Precise, and Scalable Operations

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Assessment Shaping Active Deterrence Influence Disruption

Special Warfare & Surgical Strike

Special Warfare

Units capable of long-duration operations in denied areas designed to train, advise, and assist host nations in conducting special operations, and to build the indigenous

Surgical Strike

Units trained and equipped to provide a primarily unilateral, scalable, direct action capability that is skilled in hostage rescue, kill/capture operations against designated

Army special operations forces units are not mutually exclusive with respect to special warfare and surgical strike.
Darker gradient depicts stronger operational focus.

20th
Special Forces Groups
(Airb

C1/1, B2/3, A1/5, C3/7, C1/10, C2/10
ombatant Commander In-Extremis Forces

Special Mission Units (Airborne)

5th Ranger Regiment (Airborne)

95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne)

4th, 8th Military Information Support Operations Groups
(Airborne)

160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment

528th Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne)

Special Operations Core Principles

The core principles of *discreet*, *precise*, and *scalable operations* are reflected in Army special operations forces' ability to operate in small teams in friendly, politically sensitive, uncertain, or hostile environments to achieve U.S. objectives unilaterally or with or through indigenous forces and populations.

- **Discreet:** The operations are discreet by deliberately reducing the signature of U.S. presence or assistance.
- **Precise:** The operations are precise in the manner that Army special operations forces' targeting focuses on eliminating collateral damage and through the use of dedicated intelligence to identify and target both individuals and systems that enable minimal U.S. presence with or without indigenous support to attain strategic objectives.
- **Scalable:** The scalable aspect of these operations is directly associated with the way Army special operations forces are organized, trained, and equipped to carry out operations unilaterally with minimal conventional or indigenous support or they can execute actions that are part of a large-scale conventional operation to attain operational and strategic objectives.

Regional Mechanisms

Regional mechanisms are the primary methods through which friendly forces affect indigenous populations, host nations, or the enemy to establish the conditions needed to safeguard our interests and those of our allies.

- **Assessment:** Through sustained engagement with enduring partners.
- **Shaping:** Condition-setting activities that facilitate potential future operations or other strategic missions.
- **Active Deterrence:** Proactively employ capacity-building activities to dissuade adversaries and threats from their contemplated violence.
- **Influence:** Contribute an understanding of the foreign operational environment and populations critical to inducing or reinforcing foreign attitudes and behaviors favorable to desired objectives.
- **Disruption:** Degrade the effectiveness of adversaries and threats.

Special Operations Characteristics

Army special operations characteristically—

- **Are low-visibility or clandestine.**
- **Have a minimal signature.**
- **Are used to foster habitual (indigenous) relationships.**
- **Are used to employ precise and timely actions and messages.**

The characteristics of special operations Soldiers —

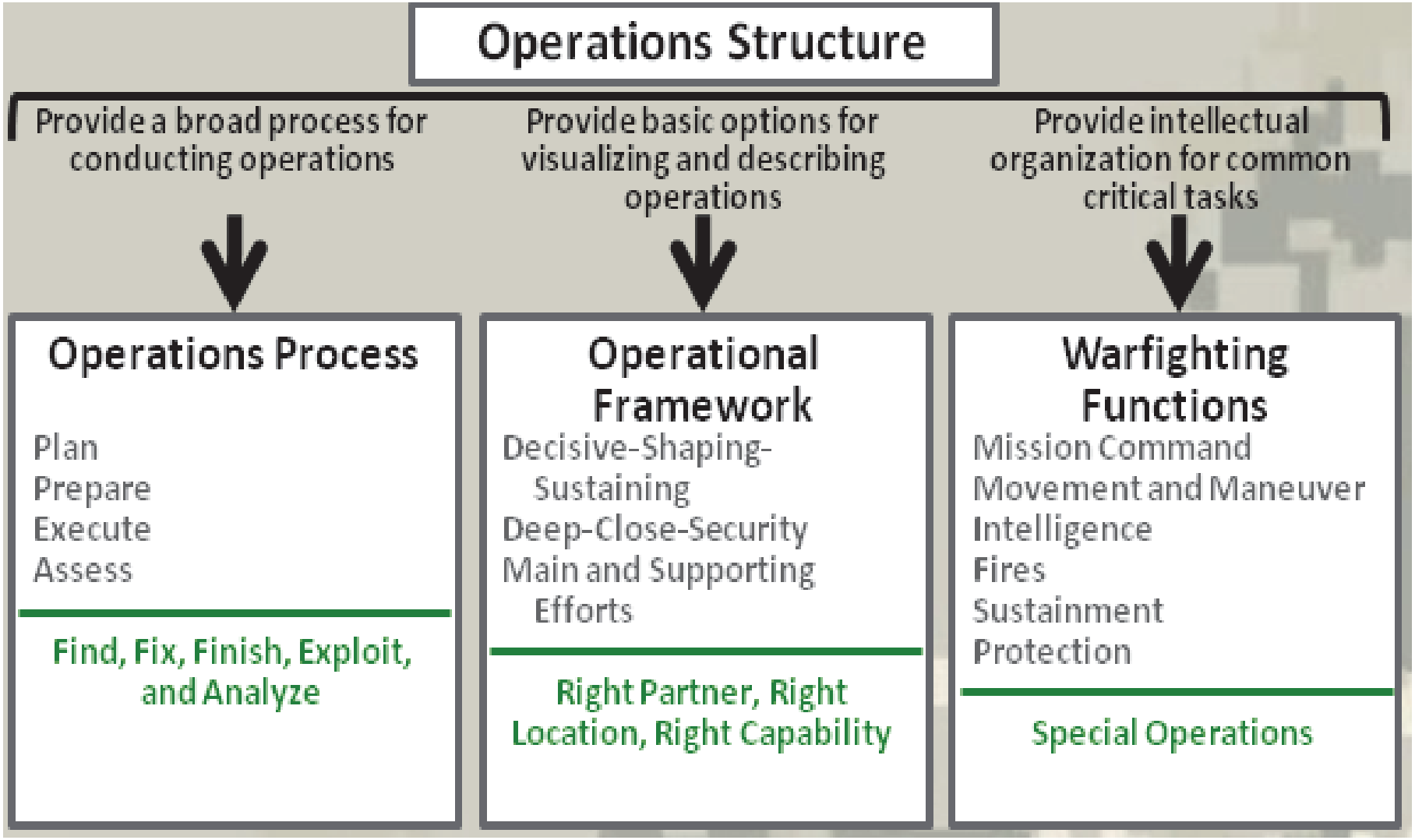
- **Language trained.**
- **Regionally aligned.**
- **Culturally astute.**
- **Politically nuanced.**
- **Trained in mediation and negotiation.**
- **Expected to operate autonomously.**
- **Proficient at interorganizational coordination.**
- **Proficient with and enabled by application of advanced**

Special Operations Imperatives

The special operations imperatives are the foundation for planning and executing special operations in concert with other forces, interagency partners, and foreign organizations.

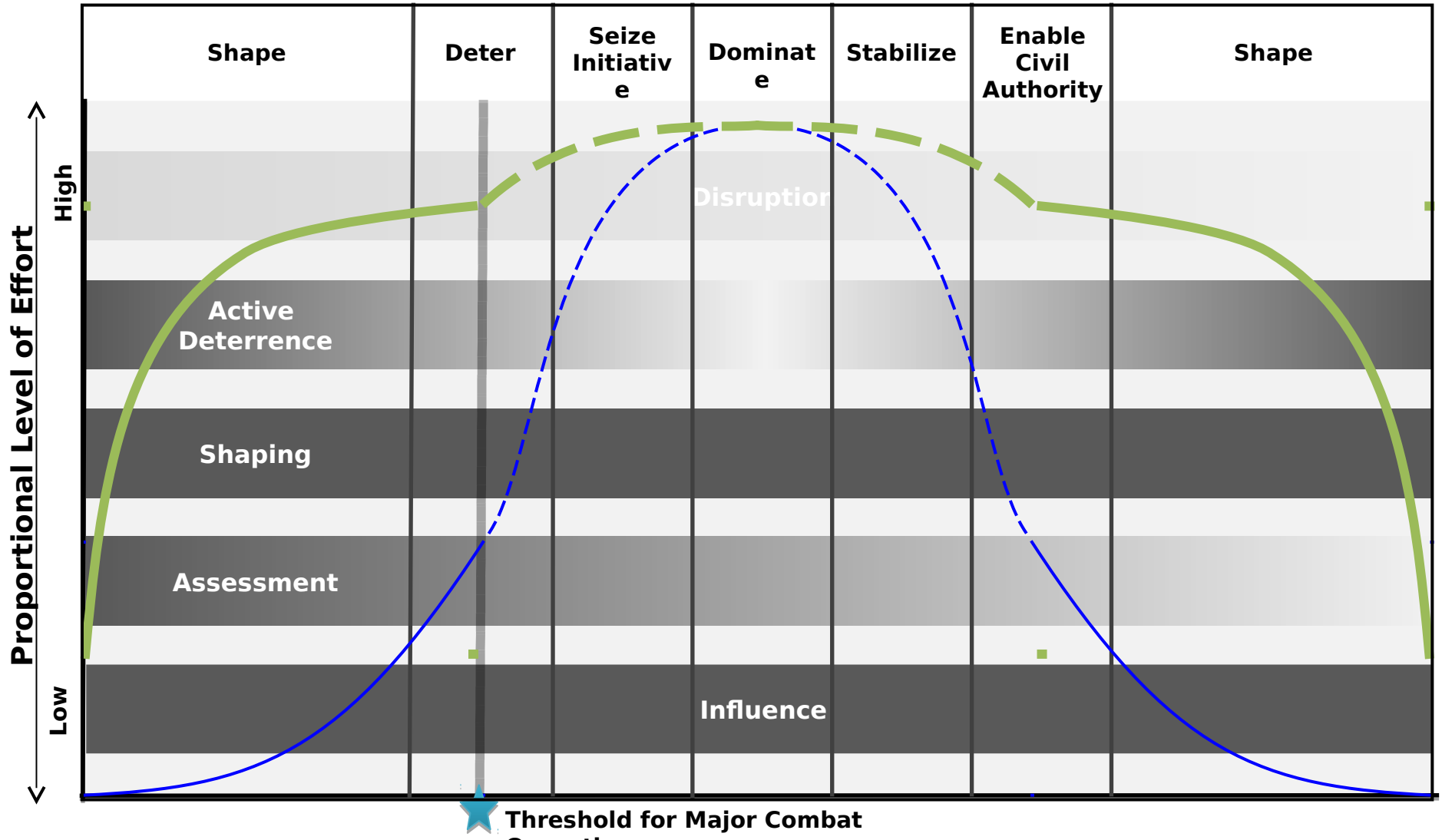
- **Understand the Operational Environment**
- **Recognize Political Implications**
- **Facilitate Military and Interagency Activities**
- **Engage the Threat Discriminately**
- **Anticipate Long-Term Effects**
- **Ensure Legitimacy and Credibility**
- **Anticipate and Control Psychological Effects**
- **Operate with and through others**
- **Develop Multiple Options**
- **Support Long-Term Engagement**
- **Provide Sufficient Intelligence**
- **Balance Security and Synchronization**

erations Structure for Special Operati



Army Special Operations Executed Throughout the Range of Military Operation

ker gradient depicts Army special operations forces' level of commitment throughout the joint operational



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